

EISCAT Scientific Association

Short Report from the 85th meeting of the Council held at HNA Beach & Spa Resort, Haikou, Hainan Island, P. R. of China, 3 – 4 November 2015

Present: Finland: Dr. A. Aikio, Dr. K. Sulonen, Japan: Dr. H. Miyaoka (Council Vice-Chairperson), Dr. S. Nozawa, Norway: Prof. A. Brekke, Dr. B. Jacobsen, Dr. L. Lønnum, P. R. of China: Prof. Q. Dong, Prof. J. Wu, Dr. Z. Ding, Sweden: Dr. T. Andersson, UK: Dr. M. Freeman and Dr. I. W. McCrea (Chairperson). By Invitation: Mrs. M. Vannas (AFC Chairperson) and Dr. T. Ulich (SOC Chairperson). From Headquarters: Mr. H. Andersson (Head of Administration) Dr. I. Mann (Head of Projects) and Dr. C. Heinselman (Director).

This Short Report follows the agenda order.

Council related

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda is adopted as presented.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 84th meeting

The minutes from the 84th meeting is approved and recognised as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the 84th meeting

Council decides to finalise the 2010-2011 Annual Report by omitting the requested material that has not been submitted yet.

Reporting

4. Report from the Director

Council notes the report.

5. Report from the Administrative and Finance Committee

Council notes the AFC report. It is clarified that the Norwegian EISCAT_3D funding decision is not requiring a start of construction, just agreement by the funding parties to start the build phase.

6. Report from the Scientific Oversight Committee

Council notes the report. Council agrees with the proposal from SOC to appoint Marco Milla from the Jicamarca Radio Observatory and Norbert Jakowski from the German Aerospace Centre as new external SOC members. The appointments are from today and for two years. It is clarified that the feedback from the Peer Review runs should be done in two stages: firstly, a short description of the campaign itself and later, an

elaborated report summarising the scientific results. Council discuss ways of how to better balance¹ the operations between the different radars.

EISCAT_3D related

7. Overall status: round table meetings, national applications, etc.

The overall status is summarised. Council will at some later meeting need to decide upon the location of the EISCAT_3D Operations Centre and the Data Centre(s). The outcome of the latest Japanese funding application will probably be known in December 2015. The Japanese process involves two phases. First phase covers the overall design and delivery of a first batch of amplifiers followed by a second phase which will provide the full amount of amplifiers to be installed at the core EISCAT_3D array. The December decision relates to the first phase. Council considers also the status within the other Associates, UK and P. R. of China, where work are still ongoing to secure funds for EISCAT_3D.

8. EISCAT_3D Cost Book - guidelines to handle in-kind values and differences from the target delivery time, specifications and cost

The Council members discuss the guidelines for the cost book. After consideration, it is agreed to keep the cost book as it stands, at least for the time being. The expected in-kind contribution from Japan will therefore consist partly of items within the cost book and partly of contributions outside the cost book, which will be handled in accordance with the rules laid down in the Agreement. It is agreed that the cost book will remain highly confidential, so that only the Associates, through their official delegate and the EISCAT senior management will have knowledge of the detailed costings provided in the cost book.

9. Formation of the Technical Review Panel

Four candidates for the panel have so far been identified. It is noted that none of the current candidates appears to have manufacturing experience and it would be desirable for a person with such experience to be added to the group. The Associates are asked to suggest such a person before the end of November. Since the Technical Review Panel is needed for the oversight of the new EISCAT_3D "Preparation for Production" project, which has already started, Council agrees to delegate the final choice of panel members to the Director.

10. Management Structure

A further developed management structure is presented to Council. Since further projects are expected, it might ultimately be appropriate to add a "Data" pillar, supplementing the two project pillars ("EISCAT_3D" and "Other"). It might also be appropriate to rename the "Other" projects as "Collaboration and Co-ordination related activities."

¹ Based on the discussion at Council, Headquarters have now decided to test a new allocation principle where each party can freely distribute their share of SP-time between the radars. The new principle will be tested during 2016.

11. Business model

Some first ideas about an updated business model are presented. This model will be elaborated further during the coming weeks and will be presented to the funding parties at the next round-table meeting scheduled for January 2016. The model is aimed at allowing additional funding routes for EISCAT and will also address how the time-share formula can accommodate the new EISCAT_3D multi-use capabilities.

Regular financial matters

12. 2015 Financial development

Council notes the forecast indicating a positive result for the year. The possible positive outcome will be used in the five years planning.

13. Budget 2016 and Five Years plan

Council considers the details of the budget document and explanatory details are summarised on certain items, including the new budget chapter, "projects". Council approves the 2016 budget and notes the Five Years plan.

Other matters

14. New Agreement – Data Policy

The changes in the latest document (submitted to Council) are summarised. Council agrees on a minor editorial change to the Data Policy, which will also be supplemented by a web page, describing the "special care" procedures. With these changes, Council approves the Data Policy for the Association. Since the Data Policy was the last open matter relating to the new Agreement, Council concludes that the signing process can now be started. A full set of agreement papers will be prepared, and a copy sent to each of the Delegates. The "opened for signature" date will be November 5, 2015 (the day following the Council meeting). Each Associate will sign one original which will then be sent to Headquarters for final concatenation. The new Agreement will become effective on the date when the last signature is received.

15. Associates and Affiliates – South Korea, discussions with other potential affiliates

Two new Affiliate agreements were recently concluded. Both are with institutes located in South Korea, namely Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI) and Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute (KASI).

16. Science presentation: Prof. Wang, Chinese national space science center

Prof Wang gives a presentation about the SMILE mission (Solar Wind – Magnetosphere – Ionosphere Link Explorer).

Council related

17. Restricted Session

None.

18. Any other business

None.

19. Summary of decisions and recommendations

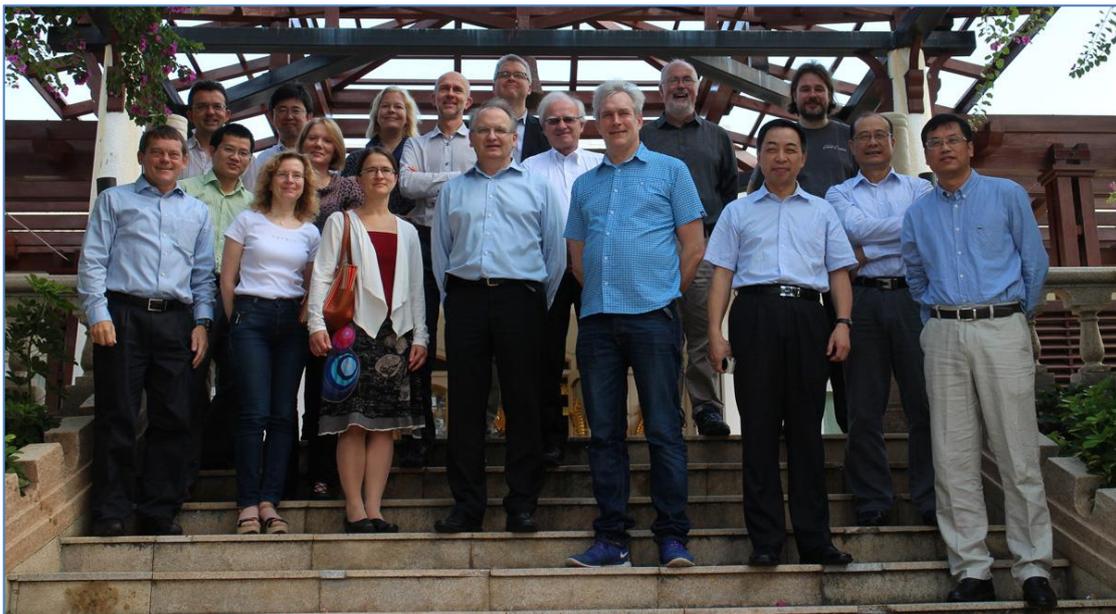
The agreed decisions and recommendation are summarised (covered in the other agenda items).

20. Next meeting

The 86th meeting, spring 2016, will be held in Tromsø with a possible excursion to the E3D Skibotn area, Wednesday 1 June – Thursday 2 June, 2016. The meeting will be organised by RCN.

The autumn 2016 will be held in UK. The exact dates are to be decided but will preliminary be around this time (end-October – early November). The meeting will be organised by NERC.

Group Photo



From left: Heinselmann, Freeman, Ding, Aikio (front), Miyaoka, Mann, Sulonen (front), Vannas, Jacobsen, Lønnum, H. Andersson, Brekke, T. Andersson, McCrea, Wu, Ulich, Dong and Wang (invited speaker)